

About Plays and Players

By BIDE DUDLEY

JAMES MADISON and several other vaudeville authors are discussing a plan which if put in operation would assure all those who write vaudeville material of getting their royalties promptly. The idea is to ask the heads of the big vaudeville circuits to form a royalty collection agency to take from the salaries of acts involved the author's bit weekly. As matters stand now many performers are slow in paying royalties and the authors have a lot of trouble collecting. To support the agency three authors say they would be glad to give 10 per cent. of the funds collected. Then, they say, their minds would be more tranquil and they would be able to turn out better stuff, thus giving vaudeville a boost it needs.

MISS MATHISON TO STAR. Edith Wynne Mathison is to be the star of a play called "The Army With the Banners," which George H. Brennan will offer in New York next month. It is by Charles Hann Kennedy. Miss Mathison has ended her relations with the Shakespeare Playhouse.

BY WAY OF DIVERSION. They used to say that Jimmy Brown was worthless as could be any way they knew he'd come to some bad end. "That boy is downright ornery," said Uncle Chet Metcalf, "an' I don't believe he'll ever mend." But Jimmy joined the Army an' they heard the other day that he had won a medal in a fight an' now the whole of Plunkville loves to stand around an' say they "knowed him when" an' praise him day an' night. I never shall forget the time that Jimmy took his goat an' got the preacher busted flat for fun. By gum, they ostracized him an' the Weekly Bugle wrote that Mrs. Brown had raised a worthless son. But things have changed an' a awful lot since Jimmy went away. To claim they were his friend brings folks delight. Yes sir, the whole of Plunkville loves to stand around an' say they "knowed him when" an' praise him day an' night.

PLAY FOR BILLIE BURKE. Florence Ziegfeld Jr., husband and manager of Billie Burke, has contracted with Avery Hopwood, playwright, for a three act comedy entitled "The Little Clown," for use by Miss Burke next season. Mr. Ziegfeld further announces that he will present Miss Burke in a big all star revival this spring.

SELZNICK SAYS NO. There was a report on Broadway last night to the effect that Lewis J. Selznick, the film magnate, was contemplating doing some producing for the regular stage. However, Mr. Selznick denied it. "The picture business is taking up all my time," he said. "How are you, anyway?"

BARGAIN PRICES HERE. Every day is to be bargain day at the Fulton Theatre where Rock and White are holding forth in their "costume" production, "Let's Go." Beginning Monday night all lower floor seats will be \$1.98 each and those in the balcony \$1.49. That's going to make Joe Lobland do some figuring.

ANOTHER BIG BENEFIT. A benefit performance will be given at the Metropolitan Opera House Tuesday evening for the Red Cross and the Stage Women's War Relief. For several years it has been the annual custom for the forces of the National City Bank, the Bankers' Trust Company, the Guaranty Trust, the Chase National Bank, and W. R. Grace & Co. to get together at an entertainment of some sort. These forces are behind the benefit. Mrs. Shelly Hull and Rachael Crothers will assist in arranging the programme. Harvey D. Gibbs will represent the Red Cross.

NOT HIS WIFE. Marty Sampter, theatrical producer, met an actor on the street yesterday. "I was just talking with your wife," said Marty. "You were talking?" came from the actor, with the accent on the "You." "Yes." "You're wrong," said the actor. "It wasn't my wife."

GOSSIP. George Laak is now stage manager of the Alcazar Stock Company, San Francisco. Zack Harris, Dame Rumer says, has a plan to produce for the regular stage. Miriam Collins of "Seven Days' Leave," will be the guest of honor at the dinner of the New England Sons of St. Patrick to-morrow night. Cardinal Barry will preside at the organization meeting of the New York Committee of the National Catholic War Fund at the Hippodrome to-morrow night.

"Oh, Boy" will finish a run of almost fifteen months in New York, Saturday, March 30, and will leave the Casino for Philadelphia, where it will play out the season. Adolph Philipp's latest musical farce "Oh, Emille," is to be done in English and produced on Broadway by Bachmann & Philipp, who control it.

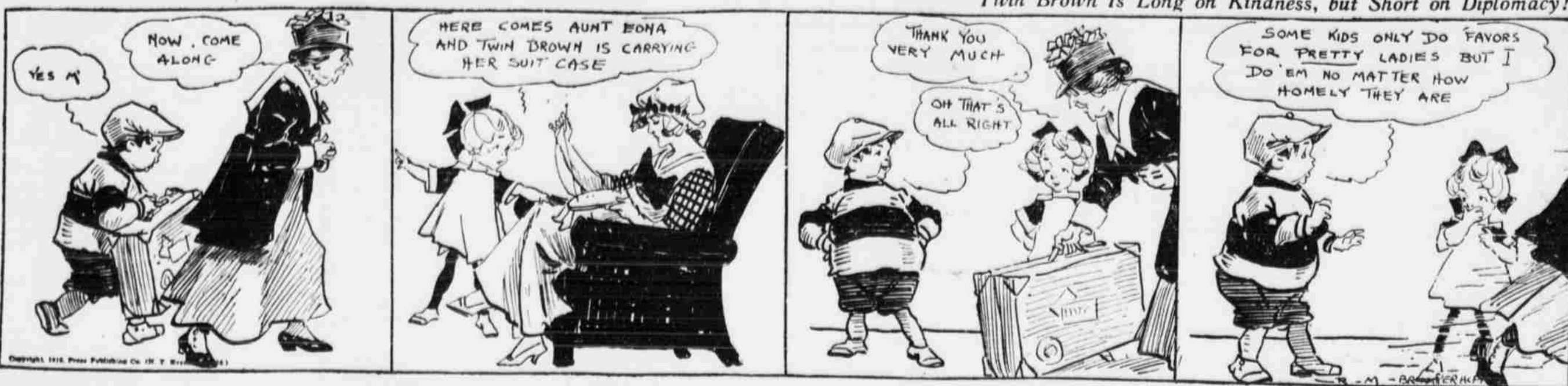
The 25th performance of "Business Before Pleasure" will be given at the Eltinge Theatre to-night. This is the third of the "Potash & Perlmutter" plays. This afternoon's performance of "Cheer Up" at the Hippodrome is its 36th. Nearly 2,000,000 people have seen the show. It is claimed this break all records for indoor attractions.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY. An Iowa preacher, who began showing motion pictures to his Sunday school, has quit the ministry for the film business.

FOOLISHMENT. There was an old fellow from Glout, who used to be very fast once, he said, "Now, you will note, at least I'm around of my rest."

FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE. "Where shall I get my hair cut?" "I'd say around the back of your neck."

LITTLE "MARY MIXUP"



JOE'S CAR



THE BIG LITTLE FAMILY



GRINDSTONE GEORGE



"SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK"



THE FIRST BULL. THE word bull—meaning a blunder—owes its origin to Obadiah Bull, a lawyer of the time of Henry VII. In England, who was noted for his many "bad breaks."

"OLD SCRATCH" EXPLAINED. TO look like the "Old Scratch" really means to look like a demon. The expression comes from the word skratt, which is Scandinavian for demon.

HIGH ART! IMPORTS of art objects into the United States have averaged in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000 annually for a number of years past.

WHO TOOK COUNT? THE Congressional Library at Washington contains 2,125,365 books, 125,232 maps and charts, 670,739 volumes and pieces of music and 360,739 prints.

IF RHEUMATIC USE CYMATIC

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